



California State Fire Marshal CODE INTERPRETATION

Date Issued	1-26-05	Interpretation #	04-036
Topic	Manual Fire Alarm Boxes in R-1's		
Code Section(s)	2001 California Fire Code, Section 1006.2.9.1.2		
Requested by	Ronald J. Mahlman, P.E. Rolf Jensen & Associates, INC. 2125 Oak Grove Road, Suite 300 Walnut Creek, CA. 94598-2539		

Pursuant to section 1006.2.9.1.2 of the California fire Code – 2001 Edition, manual fire alarm boxes are not required in new Group R, Division 1, occupancies that are provided with smoke detectors in interior corridors (serving an occupant load of 10 or more).

In addition, Section 310.10 (Exception 2a) of the California Building Code – 2001 Edition, states that a separate manual and automatic fire alarm system need not be provided in buildings (Group R Division 1 occupancies) that are protected throughout by an approved supervised fire sprinkler system and occupant notification is provided to alert all occupants upon actuation of any flow of water or the operation of any manual station.

Question: When a new fire alarm and communication system, including smoke detection for interior corridors, is installed in an existing fully sprinklered Group R-1 occupancy, would Section 1006.2.9.1.2 of the CFC permit the new fire alarm system to omit any or all manual fire alarm stations?

Yes. However, NFPA 72 1999 ed. Section 3-8.1.2 states “For fire alarm systems employing automatic fire detectors or water-flow detection devices, at least one fire alarm box shall be provided to initiate a fire alarm signal. This fire alarm box shall be located where required by the authority having jurisdiction.”